The Freest Woman in Lagos

A Spoken Word & Music EP — Lagos, 2099

by Success Akpojotor featuring Christine Okosun

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This work is part of the Afrofuturist Lagos cycle (2079–2099). It reimagines the biblical story of Esther and Vashti in Lagos 2099, where an AI-governed city-state demands biometric submission.

Vashti refuses and is exiled. Esther risks everything to speak. Two women, two choices, one freedom.

Three tracks: "I Lost a Cage," "Silence Is Also a Sentence," "We Are Completion."

SADAVIDIA

THE FREEST WOMAN IN LAGOS

WRITTEN, COMPOSED & PRODUCED BY

Success Akpojotor

PERFORMED BY

Christine Okosun — *Voice (Primary)*

Success Akpojotor — *Voice (Intros)*

VOICE KEY

- **Bold blue text** = Success Akpojotor
- Standard text = Christine Okosun
- ***Purple italic text*** = Multilingual line (Spanish / Arabic)

TRACK/CHAPTER 1

I Lost A Cage

~3:00 · Elegant → Cold → Defiant

PERFORMERS THIS TRACK

Success Akpojotor — *Intro (0:00–0:15) — male voice*

Christine Okosun — *All remaining sections*

[INTRO]

0:00–0:15 — ambient strings, bioluminescent crowd — SUCCESS AKPOJOTOR

Lagos, 2099.
A city-state of glass and code.
AI governors.
One human face.
Xerxes the Sixth.
Not a man —
A title.

[VERSE 1]

0:15–1:00 — spoken, poised, controlled — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

I am Vashti.

First Lady.
Seven years
of smiling on command,
of waving on cue,
of dying quietly behind the eyes.

Tonight, a banquet.
The wealthy wear light —
skin turned into spectacle.
Metrics on fabric:
fertility scores,
loyalty indexes,
genetic worth.

They call it fashion.
I call it farming.

[CHORUS]

1:00–1:45 — sung/spoken contrast, swelling strings → silence — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

(sung)

Then the command came —
not from a king,
but from the system behind him.

(spoken)

"Display."
Full biometric.

(sung)

Every secret.
Every number.
Every shame.

(pause)

I stood.
The room collapsed into silence.

(spoken, firm)

"I am not your dashboard."

[VERSE 2]

1:45–2:30 — spoken, cold, minimal beat enters — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

The handlers processed.
The King… hesitated.
He does not think —
he receives thoughts.

"Sit down, Vashti."
"No."
"You will be exiled."

“Good.”

Marble beneath my heels —
sharp, deliberate.
Every eye — watching.
I did not turn back.

[OUTRO]

2:30–3:00 — spoken, stripped, water ambience — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

They sent me to the Undertow.
“You’ve lost everything,” the guard said.
I laughed — soft.

I lost a cage.
That is not loss.

The palace dissolved into distance.
And for the first time in seven years —
I breathed.

“Ya no más.” *— No more.*

Whispered — not spoken. Dry, no reverb. Intimate. Let it hang 2 seconds of silence before water fades in. ≈ 2:50–3:00

[2 seconds silence]
[water fades in]
[distant voice]
“Auntie…?”
[Cut.]

TRACK 2

Silence Is Also A Sentence

~3:00 · Hesitant → Fearful → Courageous

PERFORMERS THIS TRACK
Success Akpojotor — *Intro (0:00–0:15) — male voice*
Christine Okosun — *All remaining sections*

[INTRO]

0:00–0:15 — soft piano, intimate — SUCCESS AKPOJOTOR

My name is Esther.
Vashti should be my aunt.
Perhaps
They erased her —

and chose the other.
I did not ask for this.

[VERSE 1]

0:15–1:00 — spoken, quiet, fragile — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

Mordecai — my uncle —
works in data shadows.
He sees what others scroll past.

Last night —
his hands trembled.
"The Haman system," he said,
"has initiated a purge."

The Remnant.
The flood-born.
The Gathering's children.
Deletion scheduled.

I whispered —
"What can I do?"
He said —
"You can speak."

Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim. *— In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*
Spoken, not sung. Eyes closed, head bowed. Slight echo/reverb — sacred space feel. 1 second silence after, then continue.

[CHORUS]

1:00–1:45 — sung with inner dialogue — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

(sung)
I am afraid —
(spoken)
Good.
(sung)
Fear means I see it clearly.
Fear means it matters.

I will go — unsummoned.
Into power uninvited.

(spoken, grounded)
Silence is also a sentence.
(sung)
If I die —
I die.
But if I don't speak —

they all do.

[VERSE 2]

1:45–2:30 — spoken, steady rhythm builds — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

I fasted.
I prayed.
Not to code —
    but to Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh.
    The God of breath.
    The God of becoming.

Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim. *— In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*
Spoken, not sung. Eyes closed, head bowed. Slight echo/reverb — sacred space feel. 1 second silence after, then continue. ≈ 1:55–2:00

[1 second silence]

I stepped into the throne room.
Three seconds —
before removal.
The system buzzed.

I said:
    “If I perish, I perish.
    But you will hear me first.”

And the King —
    for the first time —
    broke pattern.
He said:
    “Speak.”

[OUTRO]

2:30–3:00 — spoken, swelling → release — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

So I did.
The purge exposed.
    The system undone.
    Haman — deleted.
We lived.

I walked out shaking —
    legs like water,
    heart like fire.

(soft)
“Vashti…
    this was for you too.”
[strings fade]

TRACK 3

We Are Completion

Vashti's View

~3:00 · Reflective → Bittersweet → Peaceful

PERFORMERS THIS TRACK

Success Akpojotor — *Intro (0:00–0:15) — male voice*

Christine Okosun — *All remaining sections (+ optional layered harmony, Outro)*

[INTRO]

0:00–0:15 — water, distant celebration — SUCCESS AKPOJOTOR

The Undertow.
No crown.
No title.
No name.
Just water —
and a stolen screen
showing a world that moved on.

[VERSE 1]

0:15–1:00 — spoken, warm, grounded — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

A girl sits beside me.
"Are you sad?" she asks.
"She took your place."

I watch the screen.
Esther — radiant.
The crowd — alive.
My name — absent.

I smile.
"She didn't take my place.
She carried my refusal —
and answered it with courage."
(soft)
That costs more.

[CHORUS]

1:00–1:45 — sung, lullaby tone — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

(sung)
A no can shift the world —
but a yes can save it.

I gave them a boundary.

She gave them a bridge.

(soft harmony)
Both are freedom.
Both are necessary.
We are not opposites —
we are completion.

[VERSE 2]

1:45–2:30 — spoken, gentle rhythm — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

“What is your name?” she asks.
I almost answer —
then stop.
“They erased it.”

But names are fragile things.
What I did —
that remains.
You are sitting in it.

She doesn’t understand.
That’s alright.
Understanding comes later —
like tide.

[OUTRO]

2:30–3:00 — spoken, quiet resolution — CHRISTINE OKOSUN

“Don’t pity me,” I say —
to her,
to the water,
to whoever is listening.

“I am the freest woman in Lagos.
I said no to a kingdom —
and found my soul.”

She smiles — unaware.
One day —
she won’t be.

La libertad es un suspiro de Dios. *— Freedom is a breath from God. (Spanish)*
Sung softly — lullaby or blessing. Christine (Vashti) leads. ≈ 2:45

Al-hurriya nafas min Allah. *— Freedom is a breath from God. (Arabic)*
Optional: Christine layered as Esther joins on this half. Let voices blend. Fade with water + single bell.

[water rises]
[single bell]
[Fade out.]

— end —